NUMB. XXXIII.

The Prompter.

To be Continued TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS.

——————The Moon
Is come more near the Earth than she was wont. Othello.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4. 1735.

IF I were to measure the Encrease of my *Fame*, by the Extent of my *Correspondence*, The following Letter, which I have lately receiv'd, from *The Man in the Moon*, might have awaken'd in me some Sense of Vanity.

TILL now, I was of Opinion, that the *Man in the Moon* was an imaginary Character; and existed but in the Regions of *Fancy*, with the *Phœnix*, the *Griffin*, and *Unicorn*: See, the Weakness of short-sighted *Incredulity!* — But, I am determin'd, from this Time forward, to believe nothing *impossible*: Nay, I begin to be firmly persuaded, that there may be such Things as *Wisdom*, and *Innocence*.

INDEED, *before* I open'd his Letter, I *expected* that It contain'd something *Extraordinary*; from it's comeing, super-scrib'd with my *Christian-Name*, and my *Title*, which Last, to say Truth, I was, for some Reasons, asham'd of *confessing*; and had, therefore, hitherto, kept it, a profound *Secret*, from the Knowledge of the Publick.

I cannot, however, suppress the Sensibility with which I receive this Honour of finding myself distinguish'd, by a Visitor, so new in the World, yet so old an Overlooker of it's Inhabitants. And I take this publick Occasion of inviting him to the Best Welcome I am able to give him, while *His Excellency* shall find Cause to continue under Cover of our sublunary *Atmosphere*.

To Sir LIONEL BROOMSTICK, *Knight*; Prompter *of* Great Britain: —— ESKYR-HAZZON LUNTHREAGHYN, *vulgarly call'd* The Man in the Moon, *sends Greeting.*

Sir Lionel,

" I Hope you will not mistake my Intention, in addressing you, by a Title, which I observe you " desirous of *concealing*: It was not your *Fault*, but " *Misfortune*, to hold it in common with *some*, " whom, I know, you are unwilling to *rank with*. " —We shou'd bear our *Mortifications* with Equanimity, or we shall be thought not deserving our *Honours*.

" SINCE my Descent from the *Lunatick* Regions, " I have found Nobody with whom I can, more " properly, associate myself, and my Purpose, than " with the Author of a Paper, so aptly calculated, as " the *Prompter*; whereby to convey my own Sentiments to this World: and wherein to receive back " the Communications of Those Persons, for whose " Service I was sent hither.

" IT will be thought, perhaps, from my Name, " that I purpose to travel, Remote from the Common " Road, and keep out of the *Reach* of your Readers. " But, besides, that the Influence of *my Orb* is, pretty " well, *known*, and *felt*, in your Nation, It is, Every " where, *Safe*, and *Convenient*, that They, who design to *act*, without *Dependance*, shou'd *seat* themselves *above Danger*.

" YET, if in a Land, so famous for Liberty, It " shou'd be suspected, that I only *screen* myself, be- " hind this *Lunar* Original, with a View to discover " the *Failings* of Politicians, who *shun Day-light*, " and are celebrated for walking, by *Moon-shine*; I " must be plain enough to declare, that, however fre- " quent it is, for Courtiers, and Ministers of State, " to be *look'd up to*, as if they were *Lunaticks*, There " is nothing in the Pretence, further than the *Flattery* " of their *Friends*; and It cou'd only be suggested in " mere *Honour* of their *Greatness*: Their Names, for " the most Part, being absolute Strangers, in *our Altitude*. — It is the Rarest Thing, in Both Worlds, " for Any of these Gentlemen, to maintain an Inte- " rest, *out* of their *Element!* Besides, to confess a " Simple Truth, They, All, go *Downward*, so natu- " rally, as very hardly to transcend the Attraction of " the *Earth*, they adhere to.

" IF there is Recommendation, in *Novelty*, I shall, " certainly, succeed in my Commission; since I know " of but One Traveller, before me, who has dropt " hither, out of *my* Country. If This Gentleman " cou'd have condescended to write his Name, in " *plain English*, He wou'd have been contented to " say *Moon-calf*. — You have heard of him, by the " Name of *Lun*; which will be found, upon un- " riddling a *Mystery*, that lies couch'd, in the *Allusion*, " to mean but His own, in *Masquerade*. And, truly, " He was not without good Reason for appearing in " Disguise; — It having been, publickly discover'd,

" son

" ſoon after his Dropping *from* us, that He had run
" away with as much of *Our Riches*, as he cou'd faſten
" to his *Heels:* having, (that He might move *nimbly*,
" under ſo *unuſual* a Burden) left his *Wits*, in Ex-
" change, behind him.

" BUT, before I proceed any farther, having,
" faithfully, declared *who* I *am*; I will alſo acquaint
" you with my *Buſineſs*.

" ONE wou'd imagine, indeed, that the Good
" People of *England* ſtood not in *need* of this Diſ-
" covery: Since I am, already, within Every Body's
" Eye, and there is no Perſon more familiarly *talk'd*
" *of*.—It hath been, publickly, (tho' a little malici-
" ouſly) reported, in the *City*, that I am a remarkable
" *Lover* of *Claret:* Nor had I been much diſturb'd
" at this Story, but that the Dull Rogues mean *Port:*
" It having been the Invention of a *Wine-cooper*, more
" Crafty, than Honeſt, to recommend, by the In-
" fluence of *my Example*, the Conſumption of a Li-
" quor, that will never be *Light* enough, to riſe into
" Eſtimation, in *our* Planet. — But, It has, Ever,
" been Remarkable, of *You, Engliſhmen*, that you
" ſpeak of Strangers, with Contempt. What, for
" Inſtance, is more Common, than for your Grave,
" and diſcreet, Gentlewomen, in the Country, (who,
" yet, are Civil, and Ceremonious, enough, upon
" other Occaſions) to allow themſelves the Liberty
" of ſhewing *me*, to their Children, as a *Wood-man*,
" carrying a Bundle of *Faggots*. — Nay, I have mani-
" feſt Reaſon for ſuſpecting, that ſome *Learned*
" Gentlemen of your *Inns* of *Courts*, out of an over-
" weening Conceit of their own high-rated Abilities,
" take upon them to tax *me* with *Ignorance:* For, it
" was but the other Morning, that, in walking thro'
" a Court of the *Temple*, I overheard a Venerable
" *Guardian*, aſſure a young Lady, who was teazing
" him about an *Eſtate*, which, ſhe pretended, had
" been Left her, that He knew no more, what was
" become of it, than the *Man* in the *Moon* did.

" Yet, notwithſtanding this ſpecious Pretence to ſo
" very intimate an Acquaintance with me, my *Nature*
" is altogether *unknown*, to theſe People, who make
" ſo free with my *Name*, and *Character*.—I ſuppoſe,
" none of your Readers will call into Queſtion the
" *Probability* of this actual Truth: For, I have been
" inform'd, ſince my Deſcent, that it is a cuſtomary
" Privilege, among the *Freemen* of this Happy Iſland,
" to uſe others, *Equally Innocent*, in the ſame frank
" manner: And, that, in particular, They have a
" *Charter* for doing it, with Regard to *Gratitude*, and
" *Honeſty*.

" THERE being little Good Poetry Extant in
" *High Dutch*, I ſhou'd be doubtful, whether the
" *Boadiceas* of this Maſculine City, condeſcend to
" *read* any, in the ſofter Languages; but, that the
" celebrated, and inſtructive, *Opera*, which has been
" ſo ſucceſsful, in Refining the Taſte, and inflaming
" the Spirit, and *martial* Genius of this Nation! has,
" fortunately, brought your Ladies acquainted with
" the Hiſtory of ORLANDO FURIOSO. — That *Ita-*
" *lian* Poet, therefore, who bleſs'd them with the
" *Subject* of That ſeaſonable *Opera*, muſt have given
" them a Lucky Hint of *my* Office, while in the *World*
" of the *Moon*; where I had the Honour to be
" *Warehouſe-keeper*, in Behalf of Lovers, Heroes,
" and Politicians; who, Loſing their *Wits*, in this
" inferior Orb, *We* receive 'em, in their Exhalation;
" and pot 'em up, to *preſerve*, in *Urns*, much after
" the Manner of *Wood-Cocks:* till we ſee it ſeaſon-
" able to reſtore 'em to their Owners; or, beſtow
" 'em upon Others, who can uſe 'em to better Ad-
" vantage. For, we never have Occaſion, *Ourſelves*,
" for any Service they are able to do us.

" THERE hath been, for ſome Years paſt, ſuch a
" *Dearth* of Wit, among Stateſmen, in moſt Parts
" of this Globe, that the Emperor of our Upper
" World, in mere Compaſſion, *tapp'd* the Veſſels,
" at *once*, and Let down the whole Amount of
" *Three Paſt Ages*, to ſupply *Deficiencies*.

" WHETHER This Vaſt Bounty was, ungratefully,
" Receiv'd, or *Inſufficient* to adjuſt the *Balance*,
" (which hung *heavy*, on the Oppoſite Side) or, to
" what Cauſe ſoever it was owing, Certain it is, that
" All the *Wit* is *Loſt*, that had been hoarded in my
" Warehouſe; and, yet, Nobody, here *below*, for
" whoſe Service It was parted with, appears the
" wiſer, by the Acquiſition!

" I was, therefore, diſpatch'd, *Ambaſſador*, to
" Re-claim, and gather up, the *Wreck*; in order
" to re-fill my Granary. —— KNOW ALL MEN,
" THEREFORE, BY THESE PRESENTS, that, if
" Any Inhabitant of this Country, whether *Native*,
" or *Stranger*, has any *Wit*, of his own, to *ſpare*,
" that is *uſeleſs* to him, for Want of a *Market*, He
" may ſend it to *me*, in a *Letter*, (unleſs it is too
" *Heavy*, to *bear Poſtage*) directed to *The Man in*
" *the Moon*, at the Printer's of your Paper, — and, It
" ſhall be kept, for the Proprietor's Service, to be
" Return'd him, in ſome *future Age*, when there
" ſhall be a *Call* for the Commodity.

" HAVING, in this firſt Letter, confin'd myſelf to
" a Declaration of my Commiſſion, in *general*; —
" my Next ſhall contain an Account of what *Parti-*
" *cular Inſtructions* I am charg'd with; And what
" your Readers of Every Rank, may have to *hope*,
" or to *fear*, from my Appearance among them.

I am, Yours,

Eskyr-Hazzon Lunthreaghyn

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